

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination. Before this Amendment, claims 80-99 were pending in this application, with claims 84, 85, and 93 having been withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner. After this Amendment, claims 81-118 are pending, with claims 84, 85, 93, 103, 104, and 112 withdrawn.

By this Amendment, Applicants have cancelled claim 80, rewritten claim 81 in independent form, and amended claims 82-87, 89, and 91 to maintain proper claim dependencies. These claim amendments were presented in the Amendment After Final filed February 10, 2006. In a February 21, 2006, Advisory Action, the Examiner refused entry of those amendments, alleging that the amendments raise issues that require further consideration and/or search. As fully explained in the February 10, 2006, Amendment After Final and April 6, 2006, Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review, claims 81-99 distinguish from the applied references, and allowance is therefore requested.

By this Amendment, Applicants also have added new claims 100-118. Independent claim 100 differs from independent claim 81 in reciting that "body fluid cannot pass through the *cannula* when the first and second assemblies are sealed together," as opposed to the claim 81 recitation that "body fluid cannot pass through the *needle* when the first and second assemblies are sealed together."

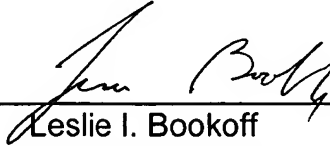
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this Amendment and
charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: July 6, 2006

By: _____


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